



# COLORADO - SLOVENIA

## 1993-2013



President: Borut Pahor  
 Prime Min.: Janez Janša  
 MoD: Aleš Hojs  
 Amb. to US: Roman Kirn  
 US Amb: Joseph A. Mussomeli  
 TAG: Maj. Gen.  
       H. Michael Edwards

NATO member: Yes (2004)

EU member: Yes (2004)

ISAF Pax: 38 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 9

Population: 2.0M (2012 est.)  
 Area: slightly smaller than New Jersey  
 Military Expend.: 1.6% GDP (2010 est.)



### Overview

The Republic of Slovenia signed a bilateral affairs agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense and the State of Colorado on **31 March 1994** establishing the Colorado-Slovenia State Partnership Program. Colorado Governor Roy Romer signed an Executive Order proclamation supporting the military-to-military partnership program between the Colorado National Guard and the territorial Defense Forces for the Republic of Slovenia on **31 March 1994**. This Executive Order Proclamation was re-signed by John W. Hickenlooper on **14 March 2012**.

### Partnership History

The Republic of Slovenia gained independence **25 June 1991**, as a constitutional representative democracy from the country of Yugoslavia in a **10 day war**. The United States of America recognized the Republic of Slovenia as a Sovereign Nation on **7 April 1992** and the United Nations recognized the nation on **22 May 1992**. The National Guard Bureau of the United States selected the State of Colorado National Guard to be a partner state with the Defense Forces of the Republic of Slovenia.

The Colorado-Slovenia State Partnership was established in March **1994** for the purpose of fostering security cooperation between the United States and Slovenia and to support the objectives of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. Each year, Colorado and Slovenia conduct numerous events in both locations that cover diverse topics such as Senior Leader Engagements, Special Operations Forces Development, Engineer Construction, Military Decision Making Process, Range Development, Airfield Development and Standards, Defense Support to Civil Authorities, Family Programs, and Resiliency. In **2009**, Colorado Army National Guard Soldiers attended the Slovenian Mountain Warfare Course and conducted staff training in Bohinjska Bela, Slovenia. Within the framework of the Ambassador's Mission Strategic Resource Plan (MSRP) and EUCOM's Theater Security Strategy, the Colorado-Slovenia Partnership strengthens bilateral security relationships, enhances partner capacity and promotes effective civil-military relations.

Throughout the enduring relationship now in its third decade, Colorado and Slovenia have successfully executed **270** events, deployed four Operational Mentor Liaison Teams and deployed two Military Advisory Teams to Afghanistan and currently Colorado and Slovenia are looking at other co-deployment opportunities to further expand the relationship growth and development.

### Partnership Focus

The focus for the near future is on assisting the Slovene Armed Forces (SAF) in completing a long-term force transformation project culminating in increased ability to meet NATO Standards and objectives for participation in Unified Land Operations (ULO). Current planning is preparing SAF for a total force plan affecting force realignment and 5 year planning, development of Poceklje range, and Cerklje airfield development to NATO standards.

Additional areas of focus include:

- Development of the Slovenian Range capabilities
- Cerklje Airfield capabilities
- Force Transformation
- Combined Training Center of Excellence
- Multi-National Battle Group



*"The Colorado NG has been privileged to be a part of the SPP since 1994, adding value to our nation's theater engagement plans and contributing to positive relationships with our partner nation's military organizations, elected leaders and communities." - Maj. Gen. Mason Whitney, former Adjutant General, Colorado National Guard*

## Partnership History

State Partnership Program funding is distributed by National Guard Bureau for SPP activity.

Event activities are categorized in two areas: military and civilian. U.S. statutes label participation by the following definitions:

SPP activity: Any security cooperation activity authorized by law, supported by funds appropriated to the DoD, occurring between a U.S. State's National Guard personnel and that State's partner nation's personnel.

SPP civilian engagement activity: Any SPP activity authorized by law that includes engagement between a U.S. State's National Guard personnel and civilians or a civilian agency from a partner nation not affiliated with that nation's Ministry of Defense.

Slovenia became a member of NATO and the World Bank in 2004. Becoming a member of the aforementioned has precluded Slovenian Armed Forces (SAF) from funding that allows SAF Soldiers being funded to travel to Colorado under SPP. This limits the number of exchanges reciprocated in the U.S., but participation is a focus of partnering either in Colorado or Slovenia.

An overview of U.S. military training programs is broken into the following categories:

- International Military Education and Training (IMET) (1994-2012) \$13.5M with 916 total students 916 trained on individual courses in the U.S. or in Germany
- Mobile Training Teams (MTT).
- Counterterrorism Fellowship Program (CTFP) (2006-2012) \$500K with the total number of students 45 trained on individual courses (mainly in Europe), 450 trained on four regional seminars hosted in Slovenia.
- 1206 funding (2010-2011) \$555K with the total of students trained on individual courses in Germany being 290. Marshall Center (1997-2012) having a total number of graduates of 115.
- Foreign Military Sales (FMS) FMS Training (2007-2011) totaling \$1.5M with 326 FMS students.

Currently, SPP events with Slovenia are funded for \$64,800 in the FY 13. This funding will first focus on a Senior Leader Visit, Defense Support to Civil Authorities initiatives, and the further development of the Colorado/Slovenia Five-Year Strategic Plan. The funding will then be used to target growth in the newly termed Public-Private Sector Partnership (PPP). This growth will help to create greater efficiencies in the interaction between the public and private sectors through their shared relationship with the SPP, both in Slovenia and the United States.

Civil engagements initiated in 2010 under the growth of Military to Civilian events, but were quickly put on hold due to restrictions in the purpose of the appropriations available to the SPP at that time. Future civilian engagements are being planned to expand on sister medical, education, and business opportunities. This will further be solidified during the activities planned during the 20th year celebration of the program in May 2012.

